

September Programs

Night Hike to Lake Rutherford

Saturday, September 13 at 7:00 p.m.

Adults/Children age 10 and up. Take a naturalist-guided night-time stroll by the light of the almost-full moon. Round trip we'll cover about three easy miles along an old gravel road. Flashlights won't be necessary—you may be surprised by how much more you can see without them. Meet at the Park Office.

Mountaintop Talk

Saturday, September 27 at 12:30 p.m.

The Park Interpretive Specialist will give a brief talk about the history or the natural history of the mountaintop and the Monument. Maps and other park information will be available and the Interpreter will be on hand to answer questions for about an hour. Meet by the steps to the Monument Plaza.

Additional dates: October 5th and 26th.

Ready, Set, Migrate!

Saturday, September 27 at 3:00 p.m.

Families w/children ages 5-10. Every year many animals make journeys that few humans could manage without a plane ticket. Come learn about nature's travelers and their trips through games and activities, and make a kite that will catch the wind like the wings of a migrating hawk. Please call 973-875-1471 or email highpointprograms@gmail.com to register for this program.

October Programs

Annual Open Hearth Cooking Day

Saturday, October 4 from 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Step back in time and see how food was prepared before there were electric stoves and microwave ovens. You'll see how food can be cooked on a wood fire and will get to taste the results. There will also be a cider-pressing demonstrations and seasonal crafts for the kids. Sponsored by the Friends of High Point State Park. Meet in the Interpretive Center.

Mountaintop Talk

Sunday, October 5 at 12:30 p.m.

The Park Interpretive Specialist will give a brief talk about the history or the natural history of the mountaintop and the Monument. Maps and other park information will be available and the Interpreter will be on hand to answer questions for about an hour. Meet by the steps to the Monument Plaza.

Cedar Bog Walk/Scavenger Hunt

Saturday, October 11 at 10:00 a.m.

Adults/families with children ages 6 and up. Take a naturalist-guided walk through the Kuser Natural Area to see High Point's unique forested bog habitat. Along the way we'll be on the lookout for seasonal scavenger hunt items. This is an easy, 2.5 mile walk. Meet at the trailhead to the Cedar Swamp Trail.

Sunset Canoe/Kayak

Sunday, October 19 at 5:00 p.m.

Come take a leisurely naturalist-guided paddle around Lake Steenykill. Bring your own non-motorized boats. Space is limited, registration is required. Please call 973-875-1471 or email

highpointprograms@gmail.com.

Morning Canoe/Kayak

Saturday, October 25 at 10:00 a.m.

Come take a leisurely naturalist-guided paddle around Lake Steenykill. Bring your own non-motorized boats. Space is limited, registration is required. Please call 973-875-1471 or email

highpointprograms@gmail.com.

Scutes, Scales, and Turtle Tales

Saturday, October 25 at 1:30 p.m.

For families with children ages 4 to 8. Come learn about the turtles, listen to a story about the changing seasons, Thirteen Moons on Turtle's Back by Abenaki storyteller, Joseph Bruchac, and make a turtle shell calendar craft to take home. Meet in the Interpretive Center.

Mountaintop Talk

Sunday, October 26 at 12:30 p.m.

The Park Interpretive Specialist will give a brief talk about the history or the natural history of the mountaintop and the Monument. Maps and other park information will be available and the Interpreter will be on hand to answer questions for about an hour. Meet by the steps to the Monument Plaza.

Preschool Programs

Fall Fledgling Naturalist Programs, for preschoolers ages 3 to 5 and an adult partner, are designed to encourage young children's natural curiosity, engaging them hands-on in the natural world.

Programs take place both indoors and out. Come dressed for the weather and be aware that it is often a bit cooler and windier on the mountain than it is elsewhere.

Class size is limited. Registration is required. Please call the Interpretive Center at 973-875-1471 or send an email to highpointprograms@gmail.com.

Life of a Log

Thursday, October 2 from 1 to 2 PM

Friday, October 3 from 10 to 11 AM

What happens to a tree when it dies? You may discover it has a lot of life left in it. Come uncover the secret life of a log.

A Sense of Fall

Thursday, October 16 from 1 to 2 PM

Friday, October 17 from 10 to 11 AM

We'll use our eyes, ears, noses, and hands to explore the seasonal changes that occur in autumn.

Getting Ready for Winter

Thursday, October 30 from 1 to 2 PM

Friday, October 31 from 10 to 11 AM

Through stories and role-playing we'll learn how plants and animals get ready for winter.

After School Treks

Children ages 6 to 10 accompanied by a parent or guardian are invited to come stretch their legs on these kid-friendly 1 to 2 mile hikes. Come dressed for the weather and be aware that it is often a bit cooler and windier on the mountain than it is elsewhere.

Class size is limited. Registration is required. Please call the Interpretive Center at 973-875-1471 or send an email to highpointprograms@gmail.com.

Autumn Treasures

October 16 from 4-5:30 PM

We'll take a short walk on a wooded trail in search of seasonal materials (colorful leaves, twigs, seeds, fruits) that we'll use to create an autumnal "magic carpet" at the walk's end.

A to Z Hike

October 30 from 4-5:30 PM

We'll travel about a mile and a half around Sawmill Lake in search of items that begin with each letter of the alphabet. "A" is for "acorn;" "B" is for "beaver;" who will find "X?"

Twilight Walk

November 13 from 4-5:30 PM

We'll walk 2 to 2.5 miles in the twilight through the day use area and will make a stop at an overlook to watch the rising full moon. Come see High Point in a different light!

Homeschool Naturalists

Homeschool Naturalists meet the first Friday of each month from October through June with the exception of the month of January. Classes begin at 2 PM and will last between 1.5 to 2 hours. These hands-on activities provide homeschoolers with opportunities to explore the natural world and interact with other home-schooled students. Suggestions for further study and resources are provided for each program. Registration is required, please call 973-875-1471 or send an email to highpointprograms@gmail.com.

This year, homeschoolers will be making and keeping a nature journal. Journals can be used as a way to heighten observation skills and to deepen understanding in very individual ways. Part sketchbook, part scrapbook, part essay, a nature journal offers many different ways to explore and express oneself.

In October we will make a simple journal and subsequent classes will include opportunities to make journal-entries, recording observations about seasonal changes as well as other impressions and discoveries.

This fall, on October 3rd, Homeschool Naturalists will discover the six and eight-legged park inhabitants using nets to capture and observe insects and spiders of the fields and forests. On November 7th, we'll explore the rocks and soil that form the foundation of the High Point State Park.